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.info WrapUp

THE INFO MUSEUM

By Mark R. Brown

We've mentioned *.info*'s 'museum' of Commodore memorabilia many times in these pages, and we've even had a few people show up to look at it. Unfortunately, our 'museum' exists mostly in our heads... at least so far.

We DO have the stuff sitting around to make a museum. We even have an empty room (more or less) that would hold it all. We've talked about what form it might take -- the glass shelves, the running software, the display cards and audio tape tours -- but we lack one thing to bring it all together: time. It just takes time to do these things, and time is one of two things that's at a premium around a magazine office. (What's the other? That's easy: money!)

But for those who do show up expecting to see a real museum, we CAN show you a few bits and pieces of Commodore memorabilia, some of it gathered up through the years and some of it contributed by helpful *.info* readers. Most of it's in the Managing Editor's office. Not because I have room for it, but because I just can't stand to let it sit in closed boxes. (Not after our pristine B128 was stolen from the *.info* warehouse by some illiterate mug who couldn't possibly appreciate what it was he stole!)

Our oldest pieces are two Commodore calculators that predate Commodore's foray into the realm of personal computers. The earlier model is a thick four-banger with a green fluorescent display; the later one is a slimmer LCD model. There are two CBM watches with the Commodore "Chicken Head" emblem on the back. The oldest doesn't work - it's a red LED model with a brass case and a heavily scratched face. (I'd love to find one that works...) The newer one is an LCD model brand new out of the box.

The computer collection begins with an original PET 2001 with 8K of RAM, 8K BASIC-in-ROM, a built-in cassette drive, b&w monitor, metal case, and impossible-to-type-on 'chiclet' keyboard. It looks just like the wooden prototype sitting in Henri Rubin's office at Commodore headquarters. It's also just like the PET Benn used when he worked for Weyerhauser, before *.info* was founded.

Next in line is a very C64-looking VIC20, with its round, white case, 22-column color display, 2-wire 'hot' power supply, and 5K of RAM. This is followed by a round-case C64 with a serial number in the 50,000 range. It started out as a 5000-series machine, but burnt out during the warranty period, and the local Commodore dealer replaced it. It's not in working order now. I think the original 'twinkle' VIC chip finally burnt out. One of our most prized possessions is an SX-64 C64 portable, with built-in 1541 disk drive and 5" color screen. Most people have forgotten all about these little gems, but ours works just great. Then we've got a C64C 'slim-line case' unit somewhere -- I think it's in Benn's family room. And there's a 'wedge' C128 (the original) and a very IBM-ish C128D with a square case, detached keyboard, 80-column monochrome monitor, and built-in 1571 disk drive. Rounding out our 8-bit collection is a Plus-4. This ill-conceived little monster was only out of its box for a couple of weeks. We don't even have any software to run on it, other than what was built-in. On the 'want list': we never managed to talk anyone out of a prototype of Commodore's 8-bit LCD laptop, and we'd sure like to get our hands on one someday. We also never got our hands on a C64-based 'Max Machine' game machine. We're missing the C-16, too (though I'm not sure we much care).

On the Amiga side of things, there are a couple of A1000s around the office yet, though we only use one and that intermittently. Our other Amigas aren't museum pieces yet, but we've got 2000s, 500s, 3000s, a 3000UX, and a CDTV unit. We've never managed to get one of the original prototype 'black case' Amigas, though we'd sure like to hear from you if you've got one you'd like to see preserved!

It's always been a point of contention around here as to how much 'old junk' we keep around for posterity. If we kept it all, we'd be buried in short order. But Benn has a good selection of old C64 games, I've got a boxful of VIC20 game carts somewhere, and we've kept some old Amiga titles just for kicks. When we DO get the *.info* museum set up, we want to be able to plug in these machines and RUN them!

Of course, we've got some of other stuff, too: C64, VIC20, and Amiga promotional literature, lapel pins, a couple of baseball caps, a couple of blue plastic Commodore mugs, etc. We've even got some of the original Amiga 'Boing Ball' metal nameplates. (We'll be giving one of these away to some lucky duck in our 8th anniversary giveaway next issue!) But we'd like to have more stuff, particularly from the early days.

We WILL get our museum set up someday. Promise. Just as soon as we get a little free time. When we do, we'll print an article with lots of pictures. In the meantime, if you've got any Commodore memorabilia that you think might fit into our little museum, we're accepting contributions, and we'd appreciate your help.

We're particularly interested in finding the hardware already mentioned: a B128 ('Porsche' style case, like the one that was stolen), a 'Max Machine' C64-based cartridge game machine, a working red LED watch, a prototype 'black case' Amiga/Lorraine, and a prototype LCD 8-bit laptop. We'd also like to get our hands on more Commodore promotional items: literature, pens, pencils, pins, suspenders, socks, coffee cups, caps, T-Shirts, etc. If you have something you think others might enjoy seeing in our museum, write to me at any of the mail or EMail addresses listed in our letters column. And thanks.

8TH ANNIVERSARY GIVEAWAY!

The next issue of *.info* marks our eighth anniversary, and to celebrate and show our appreciation to our readers, we're having a super giveaway contest! We're busily gathering pledges of hardware and software from Amiga developers, and we should be able to give away a carload of prizes to a few lucky winners. And all you'll have to do to enter is send us a card! Look for details in the next issue of *.info*.

.infoMANIA GAMETIPS

LEMMINGS: Harv Laser tells us that by using *ParNet* (Fish #400), you can network a CDTV unit to an Amiga with a simple $5 cable. Then, using a script on the CDTV version of Psygnosis' *Lemmings*, you can actually load the game into the Amiga from CDTV and play it on the Amiga. Besides being a nifty game tip, this setup lets you use a CDTV unit as a CD-ROM drive for the Amiga. We love it!

ROBOCOP 2: Type SERIALINTERFACE on the title screen and hitting F9 will give you more energy and F10 will take you to the upper levels. - Nathan Webb

BARDS TALE III - THE THIEF OF FATE: Have a little fun with the guard at the Mad Gods temple by telling him HAMBURGER.

Share your "secret tricks" with .info readers or write and let us know which games you'd like to see hints for! Send to: .infoMania, 705 Highway 1 West, Iowa City, IA 52246

EURO-SHOW

Over 29,000 people attended the Amiga'91 show in Berlin in April. Commodore demoed CDTV, of course, and it was also announced that there will be another Berlin show in 1992. The next big European show will be in Cologne October 31-November 3. Over 60,000 people attended the Cologne show last year. If you're considering a trip to Europe, it's THE show to attend.

SIERRA MUSIC

Sierra's next installment in the *Police Quest* series, *Police Quest III*, will feature a soundtrack composed by Jan Hammer. Hammer is best known for writing the theme for *Miami Vice*.

NOT SATYR, CENTAUR

Centaur Software has been acquiring and and licensing up a storm lately. They've recently announced an agreement to market and distribute M.A.S.T.'s hardware, including the *Colorburst* 24-bit display box. Centaur has also licensed Hologramophone Research's *Pixound* and *Hyperchord* music software. If you've never seen these, they're among the more interesting products that produce computer-generated and computer-composed music. Centaur is at PO Box 4400, Redondo Beach, CA 90278. 213-542-9998.

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.info would like to keep you informed about what service bureaus are around and what services they offer. If you have, or know of, a service bureau that uses Amigas to provide film, slide, print, or other output services, please let us know. Send the vital statistics to: .info Pubications, 705 Highway One West, Iowa City, IA 52246. Or you can fax the information to 319-338-0897.

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